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GP-1771

EXPRESS MAIL NO.: EL 500 575 873 US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: S. MATSUDA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1771

Application No.: 09/646,527

Examiner: Victor S. Chang

Filed: September 15, 2000

Attorney Docket No.: 5868-0017

For: MICROPOROUS FILM

New York, NY
September 6, 2002

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 7, 2002, please enter the following amendments and remarks in the file of the above-identified application. Attached hereto are: 1) Exhibit A, a marked-up version of the amended claims; and 2) Exhibit B, a list of the pending claims upon entry of the present amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5, 9 and 11 to read as follows:

5. (Amended) A process for producing the microporous membrane according to claim 1 which comprises using a vinylidene fluoride homopolymer or copolymer having a weight average molecular weight of 1×10^5 or more and a solvent capable of forming a microporous membrane having a percolation structure as defined in (B) below, in a weight ratio of 10 : 90 to 60 : 40; dissolving said vinylidene fluoride homopolymer or copolymer in said solvent at a dissolution temperature T_s at which the percolation structure can be formed and which satisfies the condition described in (C) below; extruding the resulting solution with